FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 237 *8 December 1983*

ARGENTINA

Assembly Officially Proclaims Alfonsin President B 1
Former Leaders Testify to Panel on Falklands War B 1
Galtieri Criticizes Others B 1
Anaya Emphasizes Secrecy B 2
Costa Mendez on Haig Talks B 2
Menendez Recalls Early Questions B 3
Nicolaides Retires; Calvi Assumes Army Command B 4
Armed Forces Reported Annoyed by Ministries Law B 5
Caputo Expresses 'Hope' for Beagle Agreement B 5
Paraguayan Foreign Minister on Yacyreta Project B 6
Mrs Peron's Arrival Delayed Until Friday B 6
EEC Delegation To Attend Alfonsin Inauguration B 7
PRC, Bulgarian Officials Arrive for Inauguration B 7
Senate Committees Reorganized; Chairmen Named B 7
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 7 Dec]

BOLIVIA

Alleged Planners of Attack on Congress Arrested C 1
Senate Questions Alvarez Plata C 1
Siles Authorized To Visit Argentina, Colombia C 2
Ortiz Mercado Leaves for Amazon Treaty Meeting C 2
Cabinet Rejects Salary Demands; Strike Called C 3

BRAZIL

Figueiredo Denounces 'Disorder' to Military D 1
Planning Minister To Visit Europe, Middle East D 1
Commentary on South African Workers on Falklands D 1

CHILE

Government Cancels Minimum Employment Program E 1
Economy Minister Comments E 1
CNT To Study Termination E 1
Officials Receive South Korean Foreign Minister E 2
DINACOS Director Rivera Accuses Communists E 2
AD Calls for Four Rallies on 17, 18 December E 2
Havana Notes Planned AD Protests E 3
MDP Calls for 'Day of Struggle' 13 December E 3
Seguel Rebuts Jarpa Charge of Foreign Aid E 3

COLOMBIA

ELN Issues Communique After Betancur's Release F 1
President on Release, Kidnappings F 1

PERU

Cultural Agreement Signed With ROK 7 Dec J 1
ROK Foreign Minister Departs J 1

State of Emergency Expanded in Andean Provinces J 1
Havana Reports Arrest of Shining Path Members J 1
Sentences Issued J 1

MEXICO

President De la Madrid Meets PRC Delegation M 1
Delegation to Argentine Inauguration Named M 1
Trade, Friendship Ties With Canada Strengthened M 1

PANAMA

De la Espriella 'Satisfied' at CBI Inclusion N 1
[MATUTINO 7 Dec]
Armed Forces Affirm 'Aloof' Position in Politics N 1
[YA 6 Dec]
Ministry, Electoral Tribunal Dispute Funds N 2
Solis Denies Charges N 2
Tribunal Charges Plan To Discredit N 3
[LA PRENSA 7 Dec]
Columnist Opposes New U.S. Security Measures N 4
[CRITICA 7 Dec]
PST Defends C.A. Refugees' Position, Rights [YA 7 Dec] N 5
Briefs: Panamanian Students in USSR; New Radio Station N 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

Contadora Meeting Postponed Until January P 1

COSTA RICA

Nicaragua Asked To Help Prevent Border Attack P 1
Monge Holds News Conference on Trip to U.S. P 2
LA NACION Defends U.S. Training of Civil Guard P 3
[2 Dec]
Arauz Protests Nicaraguan Attack on Ship P 4
Move To Replace PVP Leadership Reported P 4
[LA NACION 2 Dec]
Further on Leadership Moves [LA NACION 2 Dec] P 5

EL SALVADOR

Security Measures Planned for Bush Visit P 6
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 7 Dec]
COPREFA Reports Various Clashes With Rebels P 6
Havana Reports U.S. Helicopter Shot Down P 7
Further on Airspace Violation P 7

GUATEMALA

Army High Command Reduced to Three Members P 7
Subversives Attack Power Substation in San Marcos P 7
Meteorology Center Target of Bomb Attack P 8
[EL GRAFICO 2 Dec]
Havana Notes Successful ORPA Guerrilla Attack P 8
Briefs: Guatemala City Archbishop P 8

HONDURAS

Negotiations Regarding CBI Requirements Reported P 9

NICARAGUA

Wheelock Explains New Decree to Private Growers P 9
Opposition Says Sandinists Lack 'Credibility' P 10
Marxist-Leninist Group on Junta Decrees P 11
Proclamation of PCDN 'Legitimist' Movement P 11
Junta Makes Church Celebration Official Holiday P 12
Government Welcomes Nuns Banned From Honduras P 13
Havana Notes Invitation P 13
Voice of Sandino Broadcasts ARDE War Reports P 14
15 Army Deaths Claimed P 14
Boats Attacked in Zelaya P 14
San Juan del Norte Bay Actions P 14
FDN Leaders Announce Planned Military Actions [Tegucigalpa] P 15
Radio 15 September Reports 100 EPS Casualties P 15
[San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA 6 Dec]

CUBA

Perez, PDRY's Al-Qadir Discuss Economy, Education Q 1
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Senegal Q 1
Malmierca Ends Visit to Prague, Supports USSR Q 1

CARIBBEAN

BAHAMAS

Briefs: Party Newspaper Reappears S 1

BARBADOS

Canada To Underwrite Production Capacity Study S 1

DOMINICA

Antigua-Barbuda's Henry To Present Credentials S 1

GRENADA

Former Legal Adviser Leaves for Antigua S 2
Demonstration Supporting U.S. Role Cancelled S 3

JAMAICA

Seaga Congratulates Venezuelan President-Elect S 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

ECUADOR

Foreign Minister Leaves for Amazon Treaty Meeting V 1

PARAGUAY

Congress Passes Budget Law for Fiscal Year 1984 [HOY 7 Dec] V 1

URUGUAY

Colorado Delegation to Alfonsin Inauguration V 2

VENEZUELA

CSE Reports Lusinchi's Definitive Victory V 2

ASSEMBLY OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMS ALFONSIN PRESIDENT

PY071521 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- Raul Alfonsin and Victor Martinez today were officially proclaimed president and vice president of the nation, respectively, by the Legislative Assembly only 72 hours before they assume their duties as heads of the executive branch, thus ending the military government that began in March 1976. The Legislative Assembly resumed its activities today after a 48-hour recess that was called because the electoral courts from four provinces had not yet supplied their election results.

Provisional Senate President Edison Otero was in charge of reading the results of the elections and of proclaiming Raul Alfonsin constitutional president of the Republic of Argentina amidst the standing ovation and applause of the legislators who praised the return of democracy to Argentina. The Assembly started at 1058, 1 hour behind schedule, since there was no quorum.

FORMER LEADERS TESTIFY TO PANEL ON FALKLANDS WAR

Galtieri Criticizes Others

PY071337 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1225 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- Lieutenant General Leopoldo Galtieri, retired -- former president of the nation and former Army commander -- has declared before the so-called Malvinas Commission that the decision to use "military power" to recover the islands "was to contribute to the diplomatic negotiations to obtain their sovereignty." In his statements to the Inter-Forces Commission, which filed serious charges against him, Galtieri made charges against the Malvinas military commander, General Amrio Benjamin Menendez, retired, and termed former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez' performance "efficient."

The former member of the military junta maintained that the U.S. support of Great Britain "had no influence" on the type of operations carried out by the military junta. Regarding the logistical situation of the troops sent to the Islands, he said that it was not "comfortable but there were not too many difficulties," adding that this, however, "had no influence on the combat capability of the available means." Galtieri admitted that the troops "had not been appropriately supplied," but pointed out that "they had enough: One just needs to ask the British what they seized when Puerto Argentino surrendered."

The statements of Galtieri, Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya, retired, Gen Mario Benjamin Menendez, and former Foreign Minister Costa Mendez before the Inter-Forces Commission were published yesterday by GENTE magazine.

In his statements, Gen Galtieri, among other criticisms, accused Gen Menendez of being "weak" and of "lacking the virtue of confidentiality." More than once the former Army commander pointed out that the use of military force was to "improve conditions for negotiations." He explained that "the ultimate goal of the use of military force was not to fully impose ourselves on Great Britain or to seek its annihilation as a nation."

Anaya Emphasizes Secrecy

PY071408 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1225 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya, retired, the former Argentine Navy commander, has stated before the commission studying the Malvinas war that "despite the sad aspects of the war, the final result was positive."

When asked why the commanders in chief of the Malvinas war did not resort to their chiefs of staff to plan the takeover of the islands, Anaya answered: "Let us say that if we had resorted to our chiefs of staff, the issue would have leaked." He added: "The issues would have been disclosed to such an extent that there would have been more deaths and the operation would have been unfeasible."

In his statement before the Inter-Forces Commission last March, which was published last night in GENTE magazine, Adm Anaya raised the same argument to justify why the Malvinas issue was "never included in the minutes." He noted: "Anything that was included in the minutes was known the following day.... I do not know what is happening in this country but everybody discloses everything they know."

Adm Anaya denied that the decision to recover the Malvinas had been adopted in order to "strengthen the process," but he admitted that "sometime in December General Galtieri had told me that." The former Navy commander also admitted that "for several years" the Navy "had been discussing ideas" regarding the military recovery of the South Atlantic archipelagos.

He categorically stated that the United States obtained information on the movement of Argentine troops through spy satellites. In this regard he noted that in 1978, when a clash with Chile over the Beagle Channel was imminent, Pope John Paul II intervened and the mediation process started. He noted: "It was no coincidence that the pope called only 6 hours after Buenos Aires gave the order to occupy Nueva Island." Anaya added: "Based on its satellite reports, the United States knew that the operation was underway, so it rapidly informed the pope so that he could intervene to try to avoid a clash."

The former Navy commander justified "the strike (to recover the islands) by saying that he thought that it would result in a long defensive war, calling for improvised countermoves." He noted. "I believed that there was no other option." Regarding the war, Anaya said that the "lack of a doctrine for a joint action" caused "tremendous difficulties."

Costa Mendez on Haig Talks

PY071535 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1235 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- Former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez has admitted that after 1 May 1982 "I began to have doubts about the outcome" of the conflict with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands. He continued by saying that "I mention 1 May because that was the date on which the United States sided with Great Britain."

"As long as Great Britain was alone and unassisted, and if the conflict was prolonged, I believed that the United Nations was certainly going to intervene." Costa Mendez said that "honor, prestige, and rights would have been saved that way. When the United States intervened, I became much more worried."

Those remarks were made by the former foreign minister of the military government in his testimony before the Inter-Force Commission, published by GENTE magazine.

The former foreign minister had thought that "the British position would be to mobilize the fleet in order at least to deter, or to protect the Malvinas."

As for the behavior expected from the United States, Costa Mendez said that he thought that "it would be neutral in order to be able to reconcile the two parties. This neutrality had been ratified by the United States several times, especially in conversations between President Ronald Reagan and former President Leopoldo Galtieri," as well as in conversations with Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Costa Mendez stressed that the "purpose of occupation" of the Malvinas Islands "was to bring on negotiations, not confrontation." He admitted that Haig had noted at the time that in case of a conflict the United States "could not maintain its neutrality," [as received] adding that he conveyed that statement to Galtieri, who in turn conveyed it to the military junta."

The former foreign minister explained that he was absent at the time that the decision to occupy the Malvinas militarily was made, recalling that the deployment of part of the British fleet, "the nuclear submarines and the three frigates," was announced on 26 March 1982.

He gave an account of the negotiations to obtain a Soviet veto at the 11 April 1982 session of the UN Security Council, saying that the USSR "did not set conditions" for it. He said that the USSR 'Never referred to the actions of Argentina in Bolivia or in Central America."

As for Haig's role as mediator, Costa Mendez noted that his "first proposal and a so-called British document, which was in fact a document Haig had prepared on the basis of an original British document, "were unacceptable in my judgment." During the hectic negotiations with Haig, Argentina showed "great flexibility, the former foreign minister said. That flexibility was reflected in a "proposal" which "corrected the U.S. proposal," and which led Haig to say that he had found both good will and good faith in Argentina." In the Argentine "proposal," he added, "the word 'sovereignty' was never mentioned, and the word 'Argentine' in the phrase 'Argentine territorial integrity' was erased." Costa Mendez noted that "we even replaced the word 'rights' with the word 'interests.' I believe this was a much-argued-over concession."

When Costa Mendez was asked whether Argentina had requested the application of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, Costa Mendez replied affirmatively, and explained that by doing so "two things were expected. First, solidarity with the Argentine action; and second, exertion of some pressure on the United States."

Menendez Recalls Early Questions

PY071711 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1205 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- The former military governor of the Malvinas Islands, General Mario Benjamin Menendez, testified before the so-called Rattenbach Commission, saying that at least once he almost asked to be relieved because of discrepancies in orders received from Lieutenant General Leopoldo Galtieri.

Menendez testified that upon being notified of his mission and prior to the conflict's outbreak, several questions came to mind, questions which he in turn posed to Armed Forces Commander in Chief Leopoldo Galtieri: Is this our chance? Have we resorted to all possible means before adopting this solution? What is going to happen? What will be the direct or indirect consequences of this action? Menendez asked himself. According to Menendez' testimony, Galtieri replied to his questions by saying that "this subject is beyond your competence; it is a subject which has been reviewed already by the military junta and by Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez."

Menendez then discussed his initial contacts with the chief of the South Atlantic Operations Theater (TOAS), Admiral Juan Jose Lombardo, which were made only "informally during the meetings of the military committee." "But at that time," Menendez went on, "everything was up in the air, because I believe that Lombardo, who had just been appointed, did not even know what forces he would have under his command."

At another point during the hearing, Menendez said he was responsible for concentrating most of the defensive means around Puerto Argentino, although "this was partly changed after Gen Galtieri's visit" to the islands.

Menendez said that the commander in chief of the Armed Forces spoke of the magnificent lesson in courage given by the Air Force, and there was no doubt about this; of the Navy which had already shed much blood; and of the Army which was in an apparent state of inaction as a result of which it would end up by not fighting. Menendez added that "for reasons of internal and international politics, this had to be done, and I was told the Army's honor rode on my decisions."

By then, Menendez admitted, his conviction that he could accomplish the mission of defending the island "was quite eroded." He said that he was convinced that the British troops who recaptured Port Darwin "had been relieved by fresh troops in the middle of the attack," and then talked about the inferiority in technical means and professional preparation of the Argentine soldiers. Asked how many times he had been at the front, Menendez tersely said: "I believe I went twice."

NICOLAIDES RETIRES; CALVI ASSUMES ARMY COMMAND

PY071929 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Army Commander Cristino Nicolaides today said goodbye to his troops during a ceremony at the military academy. During the ceremony, the Army commander's aide read a message issued by Nicolaides. The message noted that regardless of any rights or wrongs, the Army should be proud of having fulfilled its duty. He added that the will of the people, expressed through their votes, will restore the form of government established by the Constitution, thus putting an end within a few hours to the national reorganization process.

Nicolaides noted that the task has not been an easy one, and that it is necessary to overcome disagreements and lack of understanding. He warned that there were several attempts to block the path of the process, but that the firmness of our convictions allowed us to achieve our objective.

Nicolaides noted that since he assumed his command, he has witnessed a lack of consensus within the national reorganization process. He also noted the nefarious consequences of the struggle against subversion which was politically exploited by those who tried to continue it under a different disguise.

Regarding the South Atlantic conflict, Nicolaides said that it was an unresolved regional conflict that was still in the stage of complex negotiations, and that the defeat in the Malvinas war has had a tremendous impact.

Nicolaides noted that the path to achieve democracy had been clearly established so as to guarantee the presidential election campaign. The message also told the soldiers present at the ceremony that they can be proud because they have made a significant contribution in achieving democracy in a united and mature nation. Also present at the farewell ceremony were President Bignone and several senior Army officials. Army chief of Staff Edgardo Nestor Calvi is as of now in command of the Army.

ARMED FORCES REPORTED ANNOYED BY MINISTRIES LAW

PY070241 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0145 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (NA) -- Military sources tonight revealed that the Armed Forces have reportedly expressed to President Reynaldo Bignone their displeasure over the jurisdiction which reportedly is going to be assigned to the Defense Ministry in the future Ministries Law.

According to the military high command, the objection reportedly relates to the fact that the new jurisdiction would reduce the functions of the Armed Forces chiefs of staff -- which in the future administration will be held by the commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces -- making them "merely administrative officers."

The sources indicated that this situation would be "practically unacceptable" to the military commands. This objection is reportedly the only issue delaying the announcement of the future Ministries Law, which continues under discussion by General Bignone tonight.

CAPUTO EXPRESSES 'HOPE' FOR BEAGLE AGREEMENT

PY071955 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1348 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (NA) -- Foreign Minister-designate Dante Caputo today asserted that the Radical government will try to reach, "within a prudently short term, a basic agreement" in the conflict with Chile over the Beagle Channel, but he explained that that agreement "will by no means be definitive because greater negotiations are necessary to reach a definitive agreement."

Caputo categorically dismissed the notion that the current government may ratify any type of previous agreement with Chile and disclosed that General Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, head of the Argentine delegation to the mediation, will travel to Rome tomorrow on an "unofficial mission seeking greater information on the latest stance adopted by the Chilean side." Etcheverry Boneo has just been confirmed in his post as head of the Argentine delegation before the Papal mediation. The mission that he will start tomorrow is thus the first task entrusted to him by the Radical government.

In answering a question, Caputo pointed out that the request made by a group of 37 diplomats and politicians to President Reynaldo Bignone to "abstain" from signing an agreement with Chile "are the voices of those who, in the name of alleged nationalistic pretenses, are trying to prevent an agreement which could simply mean reaching peace with Chile."

When he was asked by Radio Continental about the statements made by Pablo Gonzalez Bergez, recently sent by Raul Alfonsin to Santiago, that "a prompt agreement could be reached with Chile," Caputo reiterated that "we must be very cautious and replace the word optimism with the word hope." Caputo maintained that the "comings and goings" experienced in the negotiations over the Beagle Channel dispute carried out through the Holy See since January 1979 "prevented reason from prevailing between the two countries." He asserted that due to those inconveniences, "I can still not assure that these negotiations will have an adequate outcome."

Caputo admitted the existence of a "draft with some guidelines on the most important issues to be included in a basic agreement." The minister added that "within a pruduently short term we wish to reach a basic agreement, which by no means will be a definitive agreement" with Chile. He said that during the past few months of negotiations "visible progress has been made, but I would rather appear prudent and not optimistic." He asserted that once "the secrecy phase" of the official negotiations, which will start when President Raul Alfonsin assumes the presidency, "is over, we will have the duty of informing the people" about the terms of the eventual agreement. He criticized the military government in this regard because it "turned the practice of reserved information into a practice which was not in keeping with the country's needs, but with the needs of a sector that sought to remain in power, exploiting the peoples' ignorance."

PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON YACYRETA PROJECT

PY071811 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar, who is visiting Buenos Aires, has made a statement on the Yacyreta Dam project. The Paraguayan official noted that the future Argentine Government will have to uphold the international agreements that have been signed regarding the joint Yacyreta projects. However, he noted that this does not imply that conditions have been imposed on the Alfonsin government, which will be free to submit any suggestions on the hydroelectric dam project. Asked about Paraguayan-Argentine relations, Saldivar said that Argentine-Paraguayan relations will always be cordial, since the two countries have many joint projects.

MRS PERON'S ARRIVAL DELAYED UNTIL FRIDAY

PY072115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1605 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM) -- Liaison committee members today at noon reported that only at 1330 will they have news from Madrid on whether former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron's return to Argentina, scheduled for Thursday at 0630, will be delayed. The possible delay in the former President's return is because of an accident at Spain's Barajas International Airport that has interrupted operations.

Members of the liaison committee have stated that, once they have confirmed reports on the day and the hour of the arrival of the former president, they will immediately inform the press.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2005 GMT on 7 December 1983 reported that the Argentine Airlines flight which was to leave for Buenos Aires carrying former Argentine President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron was postponed because of the accident at the Barajas Airport today. Argentine Airlines flight 127 was postponed until tomorrow, Thursday, 2230 local time (2130 GMT).]

EEC DELEGATION TO ATTEND ALFONSIN INAUGURATION

PY071151 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] A spokesman of the EEC representation to Latin America has confirmed that an EEC delegation will be in Buenos Aires on Saturday to attend President-elect Alfonsin's inauguration. Irish Minister (Richard Burch) will preside over the delegation, which will arrive in Buenos Aires directly from Brussels.

PRC, BULGARIAN OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR INAUGURATION

PY080335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1818 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM) -- Qian Zhengying, PRC minister of water conservancy and power industry, today arrived in Argentina at the head of a delegation that will attend the inauguration of President-elect Raul Alfonsin.

Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council and leader of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, also arrived today.

SENATE COMMITTEES REORGANIZED; CHAIRMEN NAMED

PY072250 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] [NA] -- An agreement was reached in the Senate last night as to the distribution of committees, of which 14 will be presided over by Radicals, another 14 by Justicialists, and the remaining three by provincial parties.

Both houses of Congress will proclaim Raul Alfonsin and Victor Martinez President and Vice-President of Argentina today, after a 48-day delay caused by a private citizen's objection of the Tierra del Fuego electors, and the failure of the returns from the Mendoza, Misiones, Jujuy and La Pampa electoral colleges to arrive on time.

The agreement between the Radical and Justicialist Senate blocs increased the original number of committees from 23 to 31, after five of the committees were split, another two were created. The committees to be divided include those dealing with constitutional, provincial and municipal affairs -- to be divided into three separate committees -- transport and communications; ports and tourism; and social assistance and public health. The two new committees are those for regional economies, and for constitutional guarantees.

Radicals will preside over the following committees: constitutional affairs (Fernando de la Rua); foreign affairs (Adolfo Gass); defence (Antonio Berhongaray); budget and finance (Juan Trilla); housing (Hector Velazquez); energy (Humberto Sigal); agriculture and livestock (Faustino Mazzucco); trade (Luis Leon); and education (Margarita Malharro de Torres). The party's members will also preside over communications, industry, family, and constitutional guarantees.

Justicialists, for their part, will preside over the following: Municipal affairs, interparliamentary relations, labour and welfare, legislation, interior and justice, public works, economy, transportation, fuels, tourism, natural resources and environment, regional economies, public health, social assistance, and library.

The three committees to be headed by provincial party senators are those dealing with mining, sports, and auditing.

ALLEGED PLANNERS OF ATTACK ON CONGRESS ARRESTED

PY071340 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Those who allegedly planned the attack against the Congress building on 24 November have been arrested in Trinidad City.

During an oral report to the Senate yesterday, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata stated that according to the information received from the prefect of Beni Department, six persons allegedly linked to the aforementioned terrorist attack have been arrested. The minister disclosed that the arrested persons were found carrying rifles, guns, ammunition of various calibers, military uniforms, and other material. The six citizens soon will be transferred to La Paz for interrogation regarding the terrorist attack.

Those arested have been identified as: Enrique Riveros Cespedes, (Ivan Momo Suarez), Virgilio Momo Suarez, Carmelo Momo Suarez, (Avelardo Momo Suarez), and (Alcides Catimar).

The congressmen that requested the report found it insufficient; therefore, they subjected the interior minister to further questioning. The congressmen stated that the minister had not given any new information regarding the latest terrorist attacks registered in the country, especially against Congress and the media.

Senate Questions Alvarez Plata

PY072120 Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpts] La Paz, 6 Dec (AFP) -- Bolivian Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata today said that he has no evidence to officially charge that Fernando Araujo and Janet Rospigliosi, the head of the Social Action Board of the Presidency, have either sponsored terrorist attacks during the last 2 months or taken advantage of their contacts within the government to organize leftist guerrillas.

Alvarez Plata was questioned by the Senate at the request of the opposition. He said: "We do not know for sure if Mr Araujo (a ruling party member) is responsible for the last attack. We have not confirmed anything." Araujo was detained on 24 November 1983 while fleeing in a jeep of the Social Action Board of the Presidency (JUNAS).

The minister gave a detailed account of more than 20 terrorist attacks perpetrated in three departments against union headquarters and houses of rightist leaders.

Alvarez Plata explained that JUNAS President Janet Rospigliosi, former MNRI-I (Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left) press secretary Elias Clavijo, and five COB (Bolivian Labor Federation) leaders, all of whom had been with Araujo hours before the attack, were summoned by the Interior Ministry for depositions.

The opposition senators maintain that the terrorist attack against the Congress building was sponsored by government circles to intimidate congressmen. The Council of Ministers is now being questioned apparently to impeach President Hernan Siles Zuazo and force his resignation in keeping with the Constitution.

The minister said that official intelligence services have made countless arrests and raided numerous houses in their search for the terrorists who staged the attacks. Alvarez Plata also read a telegram from the governor of the northeastern Department of Beni. The telegram reports the detention of four people allegedly involved in the 24 November attack, which blew off the main door of the Congress building, located close to the Government House.

According to the telegram, the detainees are Engrique Riveros, Virgilio Mobo, and Carmelo Mobo. The fourth detainee was not identified. They were arrested while fleeing from La Paz.

The opposition senators expressed their dissatisfaction with the minister's report. This could give rise to new questioning.

SILES AUTHORIZED TO VISIT ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA

PY070244 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] President Hernan Siles Zuazo has been authorized to travel to Argentina and Colombia to attend the Argentine presidential inauguration on 10 December and the meeting of presidents of the country members of the Andean Pact to be held on 16 December in Colombia. The congressional resolution was read by Secretary Luis Anez Alvarez.

[Begin Anez recording] The Honorable National Congress resolves: Constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo is authorized to leave the national territory from 8 to 16 December to attend the presidential inauguration in Argentina and to attend the meeting of presidents of the Andean Pact in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 8 to 16 December 1983 for 5 to 7 days [as heard], respectively.

We hereby inform the Executive Branch. Approved in the Congressional Hall on 6 December 1983. [end recording]

The special congressional meeting was presided over by Congress President Jaime Paz Zamora. Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora will be acting president for 8 days during Siles' absence.

ORTIZ MERCADO LEAVES FOR AMAZON TREATY MEETING

PY070242 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado has left for Cali to attend the second foreign ministers meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. According to spokesmen of the Foreign Ministry, the Bolivian delegation is also comprised of Mario Rebollo, head of the Bilateral Affairs Department, and Carmen Sandoval, second secretary of the Multilateral Relations Department.

According to the Foreign Ministry spokesman, the meeting will include financial aspects, regional development of the Amazon basin, and scientific and technical cooperation. A joint declaration will be signed at the conclusion of the meeting. The declaration will include programs for the immediate future and the implementation of specific projects for the members countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty. The spokesman added that after the conclusion of this meeting, Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado will travel to Buenos Aires next Sunday to attend the Argentine presidential inauguration with President Siles.

CABINET REJECTS SALARY DEMANDS; STRIKE CALLED

PY080155 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Baptista Gumucio has said that the 48-hour strike ordered by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] in protest of the government's virtual rejection of the minimum salary is an effort to destabilize the democratic process restored in October 1982.

These remarks were made by the finance minister upon leaving Government House after attending the cabinet meeting. This is what he said:

[Begin Baptista recording] I did not know that the COB had the intention of destabilizing the government. At any rate, the COB's attitude must be considered and studied by the national cabinet. I believe a meeting has been scheduled for tonight to discuss this and other matters of common interest because both the government and the COB are interested in defending this democratic process. [end recording]

Minister Baptista also reiterated that there will be no salary increase of any kind. He categorically said: We are in no condition to increase salaries by a single cent. He added: No increase can be implemented due to basic reasons.

[Begin Baptista recording] The fact that (?inflation) reached 40 percent of the price index, as foreseen by the National Statistics Institute, should not surprise anyone. As finance minister, under no circumstance can I increase the salary in proportion to the current (?inflation). [end recording]

Baptista Gumucio, answering questions from journalists, said that the salary increases implemented on prior occasions in the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL] and in the state enterprises were paid with state money through credits obtained from the Bolivian Central Bank. He said that by preventing salary increases, the purchasing power of salaries will be maintained.

[Begin Baptista recording] Even the medium-and small-sized mines have asked for credits from the Central Bank to pay for the salary increases. Moreover, and this is even more important, in order to pay routine expenditures this month, COMIBOL is asking for a credit of 4 billion pesos. Under these conditions it is not appropriate to implement salary increases, because workers are getting Christmas and special bonusses for New Year festivities and a great deal of money will be in circulation; therefore, by increasing salaries we will be adding more to inflation. Then on 2 January we will again have to implement another salary increase, and this will create an inflation which is going to eat us up. We are not in the condition to increase salaries by a single cent. This is going to create a great debate, but as finance minister I will emphatically reject any salary increases, because if we increase salaries it will amount to a swindle against the population by offering money full of zeroes but which does not maintain purchasing power. [end recording]

FIGUEIREDO DENOUNCES 'DISORDER' TO MILITARY

PY081034 Paris AFP in Spanish 2212 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 7 Dec (AFP) -- Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo today in Brasilia denounced the desperation with which some groups are pressuring the government to speed up Brazil's democratization process. Figueiredo was clearly alluding to the debate on the restoration of direct presidential elections. In his year-end speech before the main military leaders of the country, Figueiredo noted that if the democratization process is not conducted calmly, there could be an outbreak of chaos, disorder and disobedience.

President Figueiredo recalled that when he assumed power in 1979, he pledged to restore democracy in Brazil. After stressing the democratic significance of the 31 March 1964 revolution (coup d'etat which brought the military to power), Figueiredo denounced the negative influence of radical groups that create disorder.

PLANNING MINISTER TO VISIT EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST

PY071624 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Planning Minister Delfim Netto's trip abroad now includes the Middle East. Minister Delfim Netto leaves today for a visit to Spain, England, the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, and Bahrain, where he will seek support for Brazil's program to refinance its foreign debt. His return to Brazil is scheduled for 14 December.

COMMENTARY ON SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS ON FALKLANDS

PY071454 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Newton Carlos commentary]

[Text] Once again the Malvinas are the talk of the day. The shipment of South African workers to the island, which were the object of a war between Argentina and Britain, has started. The ship transporting the first group of 250 workers has left for the islands and additional groups are scheduled. This has caused immediate protests in all parts of the world, even in Britain. In the first place, it increases South Africa's isolation within the UN (General Assembly) even more. Second, it places vital strategic issues at stake.

The British Government -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher -- is not only populating the Malvinas Islands, but is really converting the islands into a huge military base; the base is linked to a strategic project, a much larger vital project, that is, the South Atlantic project. The Malvinas will be turned into a NATO outpost that will guard the Antarctic and South Africa, which is located on the tip of the African Continent. The countries of black Africa are especially (?concerned) over South Africa's participation in this project.

GOVERNMENT CANCELS MINIMUM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

PY071353 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The metropolitan intendant has announced that the Minimum Employment Program [PEM] is being cancelled as of today. New programs, designed to cope with unemployment, will be implemented. Santiago Intendant Brigadier General Roberto Guillard has stated that December salaries will be paid in full. Guillard added that PEM's effective cancellation date will be 31 January, adding that several projects under the Head of Household Employment Program (POJH) will be cancelled and that only those that are truly effective will be continued as scheduled. As of Monday, ineffective POJH projects will also be cancelled. Guillard said that new jobs will be created for the unemployed.

Economy Minister Comments

PY072028 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] There is concern in the private sector over the cancellation of the Minimum Employment Plan, PEM, in the metropolitan area. The economy minister referred to this matter without directly answering a question as to whether the decision was prompted by political or by economic considerations. Here is a report by Manuela Robles for Radio Cooperativa:

[Begin Robles recording] Good afternoon. There is concern in the private sector over the government's decision to cancel the PEM in the metropolitan area, which has left 67,400 people jobless, and to reduce by half the number of members of the Employment Program for Heads of Families [POJH]. This morning, Economy Minister Andres Passicot held a press conference in which he elaborated on the reactivation process. Passicot said that an economic reactivation is already under way and that the objectives established for this year are being accomplished successfully. He said that one of these objectives was to reduce the unemployment rate to 15 percent in December.

Asked whether this sudden decision to cancel the PEM and part of the POJH in the metropolitan area had not been prompted by economic factors but rather by the incidents with PEM and POJH workers who had petitioned their respective city halls over the past few days, the minister only said that the PEM would be cancelled gradually. He also said that the POJH would gradually absorb more manpower because each city hall will select and provide workers to private firms. Passicot said that the PEM was cancelled in order to handle resources more efficiently and to manage them more rationally.

In addition, Jorge Fontaine, president of the powerful Confederation for Production and Commerce, stated that the private sector cannot overnight absorb the approximately 100,000 workers of the metropolitan area who have lost their jobs. [end recording]

CNT To Study Termination

PY072127 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The National Workers Command [CNT] has announced that it will study the government's decision to cancel the Minimum Employment Plan, PEM. This announcement was made today by the CNT's interim president, Hugo Estivales. Estivales also expressed his hope that the government did not adopt this measure as a reprisal. Asked about a statement by the Santiago intendant to the effect that Communist agitators had acted within the PEM, Hugo Estivales said:

[Begin Estivales recording] The fact that a group of people could be promoting political agitation does not justify such a measure. The government cannot use this excuse to punish such a large group of people with immediate needs. We do not approve of the measure adopted by the Santiago intendant because there has always been political agitation. [end recording]

Estivales said that the CNT will issue an official declaration on the measure in the next few hours.

OFFICIALS RECEIVE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PY072135 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong has begun his official activities in the country by meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Muguel Schweitzer. At the conclusion of the meeting, held in the Red Hall of the Foreign Ministry, the Korean official said that matters of mutual interest were discussed. He added that bilateral relations between Chile and South Korea are excellent. He also indicated that a meeting on economic cooperation with the participation of the two countries will be held in Seoul. Yi Won-kyong also placed a wreath at the Monument to the Fatherland, and he met with the Navy chief of staff, Vice Admiral Maurice Posson, junta member General Cesar Mendoza, and President Pinochet.

DINACOS DIRECTOR RIVERA ACCUSES COMMUNISTS

PY071417 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The incidents in the municipalities have been organized by the outlawed Communist Party, the Director of the National Social Communication Agency (DINACOS), Osvaldo Rivera, has said. Rivera was asked how the Marxist actions could be countered.

[Begin Rivera recording] I believe that the basic condition in these situations is that the citizenry begin to realize the real significance and scope of the Marxist activities in terms of their tactics and strategy. Once the people clearly understand their tactics and strategy, they will also understand why the government has been denouncing these situations. There is a need for the citizenry to make commitments and to understand the significance of those tactics. [Words indistinct] the basic task. I believe that journalism here has an important task to accomplish in this regard. [end recording]

AD CALLS FOR FOUR RALLIES ON 17, 18 DECEMBER

PY072020 Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 6 Dec (AFP) -- The opposition Democratic Alliance [AD] today called for four rallies against the government of General Augusto Pinochet, to be held on Saturday, 17 December, and Sunday, 18 December, in the neighborhoods of Santiago. AD President Ricardo Lagos, a Socialist, told AFP that the first two rallies will be held simultaneously in San Miguel and Nunoa, neighborhoods located in the southern and eastern sectors of the Chilean capital.

On Sunday, the group opposed to the military regime will demonstrate in the neighborhoods of Pudahuel and Conchali, which are also poor neighborhoods, according to the organizers of the rally. Lagos stated that the objective of these rallies is to seek the participation of those people who could not attend the 18 November rally at O'Higgins Park.

According to impartial observers and foreign correspondents, more than a half a million people participated in that rally, considered the most important and most heavily attended rally in the decade of Gen Pinochet's regime.

Havana Notes Planned AD Protests

PA071758 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The opposition coalition Democratic Alliance has called for four demonstrations against the regime of Augusto Pinochet. They will be held in the Santiago neighborhoods of San Miguel and Nunoa on 17 December and in Pudahuel and Conchali on 18 December.

It has been learned in Santiago that Enrique Valenzuela Blanquier, ambassador of the military regime to the United States, has submitted his resignation. It was accepted by General Augusto Pinochet.

The Chilean Catholic Church has hundreds of testimonies regarding the practice of torturing political prisoners, Monsignor Juan de Castro, vicar of solidarity, has said in Santiago. Torture has been described very realistically, because we have hundreds of testimonies on indisputable actions, the prelate stressed.

MDP CALLS FOR 'DAY OF STRUGGLE' 13 DECEMBER

PY080205 Paris AFP in Spanish 2047 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 7 Dec (AFP) -- Chile's People's Democratic Movement [MDP] today called upon the opposition to join in a day of struggle, scheduled for next Tuesday, to demand the dissolution ofthe National Intelligence Center (CNI), the military regime's secret police.

The MDP reported that the day of struggle will be marked by meetings and rallies to be held at union headquarters, universities, and in different neighborhoods. The MDP is made up of the outlawed Communist Party, a socialist faction, and the underground Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

MDP President Manuel Almeyda said that, through these actions, the left will also reject the Chilean Government's new mining legislation, which gives special guarantees to foreign investors.

SEGUEL REBUTS JARPA CHARGE OF FOREIGN AID

PY072335 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Radio Cooperativa has contacted Chilean union leader Rodolfo Seguel, who is touring Europe. Seguel commented on various Chilean issues.

Here is a report by Armando Castro for Radio Cooperativa:

[Begin recording] [Castro] We, the Chilean workers, are struggling in Chile and my fellow countrymen know that I have never had to resort to foreign aid to promote respect for human rights in Chile. Chilean union leader Rodolfo Seguel thus responded to a statement made by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa to the effect that Seguel was promoting an intervention by foreign governments in Chile.

The president of the Copper Workers Confederation and of the National Workers Command talked with Radio Cooperativa over the phone from Austria.

[Seguel] I do not know what Mr Jarpa thinks about my accompanying Mr Walesa's wife to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. There are times that, when the government wants to distort things in Chile, some sectors of the press help it to do so. I say and will continue to say that our struggle is peaceful and representative and that it is being waged within Chile.

I do not need to resort to the international press to denounce the errors committed in Chile. And if the government wants to adopt sanctions against me, well, it is free to do so, but within Chile.

[Castro] However, Seguel said that he would not be surprised if the government decided to consider the possibility of prohibiting his return to Chile.

[Seguel] I would not be surprised because it is common for the government to adopt harsh measures against union and political leaders who are bold enough to express their views freely and clearly. If they decide to leave me outside Chile, I will respect their decision. However, they should have no doubts that I will settle in Argentina or in some other country close to Chile and that I will try to return to Chile as many times as necessary, because nobody can deprive me of my right to live in my own country.

[Castro] Seguel said that during his meetings with European leaders, including yesterday's audience with Spanish head of government Felipe Gonzalez, he noticed how well aware Europe is of Chile's situation as well as the European solidarity with the Chilean people. [end recording]

ELN ISSUES COMMUNIQUE AFTER BETANCUR'S RELEASE

PA071306 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1109 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota, 7 Dec (EFE) -- The National Liberation Army (ELN), which held Jaime Betancur, state adviser and brother of the president of the Republic, hostage since 22 November and released him this morning, has released its first communique following his release.

The communique, sent to the newspaper EL BOGOTANO in the Colombian capital, states that the Colombian Government has promised to release 16 political prisoners who belong to that guerrila organization. The ELN communique added that the government has committed itself to freezing the prices of staples until 1 July 1984.

The communique also states that "they did not reach a satisfactory agreement," although they admit that the government promised to standardize the minimum wage at $175, which was one of their demands.

President on Release, Kidnappings

PA071453 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1310 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota, 7 Dec (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur has said he is satisfied with the release of his brother, Jaime Betancur Cuartas, but he noted that his satisfaction will not be complete "as long as a single Colombian citizen remains held by kidnappers." At this time more than 80 persons are being held hostage in various parts of Colombia according to official figures.

In his first statement after his brother's release, President Betancur said that "there were no negotiations, either official or secret, with the kidnappers."

"With all the love that I naturally feel for my brother, I must say that the president of the Republic must always place national interests above personal, intimate interests," Betancur stated.

"As president of the Republic, I cannot be at ease as long as a single Colombian remains captive," he sated, "as long as a single fellow citizen is in danger of suffering that crime."

Betancur asked all Colombians to support his government and his unswerving struggle for peace. He made these remarks before leaving for the city of Cali to preside over the opening ceremony of the second meeting of foreign ministers of the countries that are signatories of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ROK 7 DEC

PY071801 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Peru and the ROK today signed an agreement on the exchange of radio and television programs, audio-visual tapes, and newspapers, as well as the reproduction and translation of works of literature.

The agreement was signed by Peruvian Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana and ROK Foreign Minister Yi Won-Kyong, who expressed their hope that the agreement will help to promote bilateral culture exchange.

ROK Foreign Minister Departs

PY071744 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana has stated that President Belaunde Terry will travel to Buenos Aires on Thursday to attend President-elect Alfonsin's inaugural ceremony. Schwalb made this statement after seeing off his ROK colleague Yi Won-Kyong, who was on an official visit to Peru.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXPANDED IN ANDEAN PROVINCES

PY071718 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The government has extended the state of emergency to Lucanas Province, Ayacucho Department, and to Huancavelica Province, Huancavelica Department, because of terrorist activities in other areas of the Andean region. The measure is in force as of today and will last for 60 days. It was implemented through a supreme decree published in today's GAZETTE.

HAVANA REPORTS ARREST OF SHINING PATH MEMBERS

PA072050 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Peruvian Investigate Police have reported the arrest of some 30 presumed members of the clandestine Shining Path group, who was accused of taking part in numerous bomb attacks in Cusco. Press agencies in Lima say that, according to the authorities, this group has established two general headquarters, in (Sitio Alto) and Quinta, Cusco Department. Dynamite, other explosives, and propaganda material were confiscated. It was also learned that eight people were killed in an armed clash with police forces in Tambo District, 70 km from Ayacucho.

In Lima, the Chamber of Deputies' National Defense and Internal Order Commission agreed to summon Interior Minister Luis Percovich to report on the slaughter of peasants which took place on 13 November in the town of Socos, Ayacucho. The massacre has been attributed to the police.

Sentences Issued

PA071858 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] A Lima court has issued sentences ranging from 2 to 5 years in prison to 16 alleged members of the armed organization Shining Path who were recently arrested by the Peruvian Army. The prisoners charged before the court that they were mistreated during their arrest. Many of the prisoners who appeared in court had broken arms, were suffering from head injuries, and wore bloodstained clothing. They said that the republican guards and the prison employees attacked them after the prisoners protested when their relatives were prohibited from seeing them.

PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID MEETS PRC DELEGATION

FL072013 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1807 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has asserted that humanity is currently experiencing difficult and frightening times because the risk of a world war is increasing and because war-like conflicts at regional levels have proliferated. During the course of a visit that the PRC People's Government delegation, headed by Peng Chong, president of the Judicial Commission [as received], paid to the official Los Pinos residence, De la Madrid indicated that this is not the time to widen world divisions, nor to stir up old or new problems.

De la Madrid indicated that it is necessary to seek peace with a calm and pragmatic dialogue based on principles, but always to be ready to employ cooperation and self-denial. Mexico, he said, does not believe in bipolarization nor in the creation of blocs to resolve the world's serious problems, and he asserted that in the particularly difficult and frightening times that humanity is experiencing, we are promoting open dialogue and good faith between the world's nations. This is why, he said, Mexico persists in constantly reiterating its thesis for peace in order to contribute to dialogue at international and bilateral levels, thus preventing conflicts, and when they do exist, resolving them peacefully and diplomatically. Finally, President De la Madrid expressed his satisfaction with the good relations that exist between Mexico and the PRC, and he asserted that his government has every intention of continuing this relationship.

DELEGATION TO ARGENTINE INAUGURATION NAMED

FL080047 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2155 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid has designated Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and Senator Miguel Gonzalez Avelar members of the delegation that will represent Mexico at the inauguration of Raul Alfonsin as president of Argentina. A press release of the Foreign Secretariat today reported that this high-level delegation was designated to call attention to the Argentine democratic process which will begin on 10 December with the inauguration of Alfonsin. Argentina lost its democracy when the military overthrew President Isabel de Peron in the middle of 1976 and [began to recover it] on 30 October this year when the first democratic elections were held. The press release adds that the delegation will seek ways to strengthen the political and economic friendship and cultural ties between the two Latin American countries.

TRADE, FRIENDSHIP TIES WITH CANADA STRENGTHENED

FL080029 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2115 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 7 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Canada have agreed to increase trade and further strengthen their ties of friendship during an official visit paid to this city by Canadian Minister of State for International Trade Gerald Regan. Prior to his departure this afternoon for Canada, the Canadian official told national journalists that presently the bilateral balance of trade favors Mexico because of the oil exports to his country, which until last September amounted to Canadian $450 million. He praised the economic policies of the government of President Miguel de la Madrid because, he said, of the effort being made to correct a situation which 1 year ago appeared to be difficult to resolve. He stated that in this process of economic recovery Mexico has had Canada's support through bilateral financial backings so that Mexico could fulfill its short- and medium-term commitments. The Canadian minister thanked the Mexican Government for fulfilling the Mexico-Canada energy agreement signed in 1980 because, he said, the document has been fully respected.

DE LA ESPRIELLA 'SATISFIED' AT CBI INCLUSION

PA071622 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] On receiving official notification that Panama has been included in the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI], Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella yesterday said: It is now up to the businessmen and workers to accept the challenge offered by this opportunity.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced on 1 December the names of the first 11 countries to benefit from the program. The White House press release issued on that same day indicated that "the governments of the countries designated have demonstrated to the U.S. Government a determination to speed up economic progress in this hemisphere and to ensure that the rewards of this progress are extended to all so that they can enjoy a better way of life in this hemisphere." Everett Briggs, U.S. ambassador to Panama, delivered the official notice. The Panamanian Government was formally notified through letters signed by William Brock and George Shultz.

Panama's inclusion as a beneficiary will allow our products, with the exception of those excluded by law, to enter the U.S. market duty free for a period of approximately 12 years, extending from 1 January 1984 to 30 September 1995. Panama would also get possible tax benefits, particularly in terms of tax deductions for expenses incurred in conventions held outside the United States.

On delivering the notice, Ambassador Briggs noted that the designation of Panama stregthens its international image, portraying it as a country attractive for investments. He added that the inclusion of our country within the CBI, in addition to imparting a positive climate for the private sector, also attests to the close and effective cooperation between the Governments of Panama and the United States to conclude the necessary requirements.

Upon receiving the notice, President De la Espriella, showing satisfaction at Panama's inclusion, told those attending the ceremony: "We believe that we have achieved what we said our countries need -- opportunities, even though they require great sacrifice. As leaders, we now offer the private and labor sectors this opportunity afforded the country to further its development and advance toward progress." The president reiterated: "It is now up to the businessmen and the country's organized workers to accept the challenge that this opportunity offers."

ARMED FORCES AFFIRM 'ALOOF' POSITION IN POLITICS

PA061822 Panama City YA in Spanish 6 Dec 83 pp 4, 13

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega and Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, National Defense Forces commander in chief and chief of staff, respectively, have told the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] national directorate members that the Defense Forces will maintain a stance of political neutrality.

Rejected

Gerardo Gonzalez Vernaza, one of the PRD leaders, on behalf of "the process," had asked the Armed Forces to recommend a presidential candidate to the PRD. Both Noriega and Diaz Herrera flatly rejected this request on behalf of the Armed Forces, and stressed that the institution of the Armed Forces will remain aloof from all party politics. In other words, the PRD leaders were told that votes are to be sought on the streets, not in the barracks.

Do Not Get Dressed

In legislative branch circles, the comment was made that following the Armed Forces high command statements, it should be clear for the PRD leaders, as well for the leaders of other parties, that "they should not get dressed, because they will not be going to the party." The Panamanian military men will make good on their word, and will not support any particular political group.

The Rules

The Defense Forces staff pointed out the rules of the game to the PRD, and told the party to seek its votes among the people, and not to look for official support from the Defense Forces. The other parties will be told something along the same line when the time comes.

MINISTRY, ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL DISPUTE FUNDS

Solis Denies Charges

PA072020 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Menalco Solis has denied charges raised by the magistrate president of the Electoral Tribunal.

[Begin recording] [Solis, in progress] ...totally false that there exists a technical failure at the Planning Ministry. We have given the Electoral Tribunal all of the funds it has requested this year to meet the expenses of the constitutional amendments referendum and a program to decentralize the issuance of cedulas, involving an addition of 750,000 balboas to this year's budget.

The Electoral Tribunal asked that 6.8 million balboas be included in the 1984 budget to cover the expenses of the electoral process. The Planning Ministry and the Comptroller General's Office informed the president of the Electoral Tribunal, on instructions from the president of the Republic, that the tribunal could begin to use these funds now, in 1983, without having to wait for 1984. However, the tribunal simply must abide by the procedure established by law. One cannot ask for 6.8 million balboas and have that 6.8 million put in a bank account without saying how the money will be used.

Despite this, with our approval, the comptroller general delivered 750,000 balboas in advance this year, and the magistrate president asked for an additional 2.5 million yesterday without saying how he spent the original 750,000 balboas and without fully justifying the need for the 2 [as heard] million balboas. I ask myself, what use will the Electoral Tribunal make of this 2 million balboas in December? What will it spend 2 million balboas for in December? We must ask these questions and seek an explanation.

I asked the president of the Electoral Tribunal for an appointment today, while we are talking with you here, to go over these questions and to make the funds available to him. He said, however, that he had to fulfill his duties as a Panama University professor today and listen to oral presentations of theses, and indicated that he could not give me an appointment until tomorrow. Very well, we will wait until tomorrow. We must know exactly how this money is to be used.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, if no explanation is given, could it be said that funds have been misused?

[Solis] I would say that there has been a complete inability to comply with established procedures. The Planning Ministry establishes the appropriations and the manner in which funds are to be used, and the Comptroller General's Office approves the disbursements. The Electoral Tribunal must get in touch with the Planning Ministry, and I want to make it quite clear that the Electoral Tribunal has made no request to the Planning Ministry for entries in the nation's budget so that the Comptroller General's Office could make the disbursements afterward. [end recording]

Tribunal Charges Plan To Discredit

PA072133 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 1

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] Dr Cesar A. Quintero, president of the Electoral Tribunal, has responded to statements made by Planning Minister Jose Menalco Solis by stating firmly: "There is a plan here -- originated in high circles, for reasons unknown to me -- to discredit the tribunal, but I will defend the tribunal because we are working correctly and on schedule for the next elections." Minister Solis has hinted that the Electoral Tribunal is not managing electoral funds adequately.

According to Quintero, there are powerful enemies trying to remove him from the tribunal by discrediting him and by charging that there is inefficiency and poor utilization of the funds assigned by the Office of the Comptroller General. Quintero stated, however, that he will not allow this, and that he will react accordingly. He noted that everything is being done correctly and in detail under the auditing of the Comptroller's Office.

The polemics began when Minister Solis told the media that the president of the Electoral Tribunal has not thus far sent to his office any document itemizing how the tribunal spent the initial 750,000 balboas assigned by the Comptroller's Office, and charged that the Electoral Tribunal is "totally incapable" of following the procedures established by the Planning Ministry and the Comproller's Office. Solis also said that Quintero, in addition to not itemizing the initial expenditures, has requested additional funds am amounting to approximately 2 million balboas to be used in December, something that is neither understandable nor acceptable.

The 2 Million Balboas Are Needed

Quintero said he regrets the fact that the planning minister has misunderstood the situation, since the amount requested of the Comptroller's Office is to cover expenditures for the months of December, January, February, and part of March, in order to avoid having to constantly request funds, since bureaucratic procedures create payment delays and therefore delays in the electoral process. Quintero explained that he was of the opinion that only funds for the month of December should have been requested, but the majority voted in favor of requesting the large amount. The request was not the result of a whim on the part of the Electoral Tribunal president, he said. Quintero added: "We have made requests for partial funds to the Comptroller's Office. However, if Minister Solis wants to be kept informed about this also, then we see no problem in doing this to make him happy."

Dr Quintero noted that on 10 October he sent Minister Solis a note including an electoral budget of 6.8 million balboas, to cover all expenditures from that time to the conclusion of the elections in 1984. Dr Quintero explained that the budget request had been prepared in line with the procedures and specifications established by the Planning Ministry. Quintero commented: "I never received an answer to that note." Quintero added that he was given an appointment for 20 October to discuss the regular (not the electoral) budget for 7.1 million, which was reduced to 5.6 million.

Quintero said that on 31 October the tribunal sent a note to the Office of the Comptroller General requesting 750,000 from the budget and itemizing in detail how this money would be spent. The Comptroller's Office responded that a credit for that amount would be opened so that the tribunal could draw from it. Quintero added: The tribunal has used 506,000 balboas from that credit. This money has been used to pay travel expenses and publicity, fuel, and paper costs. The tribunal is holding the rest to cover urgent needs, such as eight four-wheel-drive jeeps needed for publicity work in remote areas, and for the acquisition of a printing press to prepare materials. Right now, he added, the University of Panama has generously lent us one such machine, which we are using for our work until we receive the one we have requested.

Quintero said: "I have been surprised by those statements, since they are an insinuation that we are unable to follow Planning Ministry regulations and that we spend more than necessary." He added: "If we were incapable or inefficient, the Comptroller's Office would have told us so already."

Plot Against Quintero

At midnight, after closing time, reliable sources told LA PRENSA that an effort is being made to discredit Quintero, "to negotiate his post and reach a political arrangement that would involve several parties, to either attach conditions to the forthcoming elections or to postpone them." The sources noted that the first part of the plot was the attack made by alternate Electoral Tribunal Magistrate Jaime Llaurado against Quintero, questioning his ability to administer the tribunal. However, Llaurado's effort to discredit Quintero did not enable him to have an impact on the community or on many political parties, and no request was made for the removal of the current Electoral Tribunal magistrates.

COLUMNIST OPPOSES NEW U.S. SECURITY MEASURES

PA071929 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 4

["Firing Line" column by Jose Franco: "The Canal, a Military Target?"; boldface as published]

[Text] The extreme security measures that have been implemented by the canal administration at strategic points of the canal deserve serious reflection on our part as to what the real motives are and on what measures can be implemented to prevent this important waterway from becoming a MILITARY TARGET.

In the first place, we believe that if the waterway has indeed become a MILITARY TARGET, there would be no culprit other than the U.S. Government which, disregarding its contractual commitments, has been using the canal area bases to carry out its military interventions. This has been confirmed on numerous occasions by foreign press releases and even by the U.S. press itself.

We recall that the Panamanian Government and international press agencies have repeatedly denounced this kind of military operation. If real, these operations violate the Neutrality Treaty, which limits the U.S. role in Panama to the protection and defense of the canal.

When the United States intervenes in conflicts in other countries from the bases established along the shores of the canal, it is taking sides in foreign political conflicts, and in the process, the Panamanian canal is turned into a potential MILITARY TARGET of U.S. enemies. It is, therefore, imperiative, for the sake of the canal's security and for the waterway's neutrality, that the United States comply with its commitments and stop using Panamanian soil to carry out operations that have no relation to its military presence in Panama. Once this is done, we are sure there will be no reason for the display of security measures that today is resented by the Panamanian community.

PST DEFENDS C.A. REFUGEES' POSITION, RIGHTS

PA071922 Panama City YA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] "No pro-Yankee government should deny honorable shelter to a Salvadoran or Nicaraguan mother or young woman who flees the troops armed and maintained by the Pentagon," the members of the Workers Socialist Party (PST) have stated in a communique.

In Agreement

The PST militants said they agree with the refugees, alleging that "they are forced to leave their country due to the violence of a war imposed by imperialism. Regardless of their political views, they are entitled to health, education, housing, work, and the free organization of unions."

Concentration

"The Monges and the Noriegas," the PST added, "want to establish in our countries copies of the concentration camps for Haitian refugees that the United States has."

Concerning Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, they stressed that the term "migration bomb" is "characteristic of the terminology used by the intelligence services, and Monge is trying to share the alleged problem with the general of the Defense Forces."

Invasion

The PST added that "most of these Nicaraguans are fleeing a possible imperialist invasion or a war unleashed by the former Somozist guardsmen and the Pastoras, who are Richard Stone's favorite godsons."

BRIEFS

PANAMANIAN STUDENTS IN USSR -- Carlos Jimenez, president of the Association of Professionals Graduated in Socialist Countries [Asociacion de Profesionales Egresados de los Paises Socialistas], has reported that some 600 Panamanian students are currently studying in various Soviet schools. He made this statement at a press conference to announce the arrival in Panama of Frantsevich Stanis, rector of Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, to participate in the first symposium on education in socialist countries to be held 5-6 December at the University of Panama. [Summary] [Panama City YA in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 16 PA]

NEW RADIO STATION -- The signal of Radio Ritmo in Chiriqui is already on the air on 820 kHz. Sion Cohen S., a young businessman from Chitre, this completes his chain of radio stations in Panama City, Chitre, and David. [Text] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Nov 83 p 4-A PA]

CONTADORA MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY

PA072013 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] San Jose, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The meeting of the four foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and their Central American colleagues, which was scheduled for 20 December in Panama, has been called off at the last minute, it was officially announced here today.

Armando Arauz, second vice president and acting foreign minister of Costa Rica, said that he was advised of the suspension last night by his Panamanian colleague, Oyden Ortega, a member of the Contadora Group.

The reason for the postponement, it was learned, was the fact that a Central American foreign minister was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute.

Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia have agreed that the 20 December meeting will be held only among the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group, and that work be continued meanwhile by the Technical Committee, composed of the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and Central American countries, Arauz explained.

According to the most recent developments, an attempt will be made to hold a conference of the nine ministers (four from the Contadora Group and five from Central America) in the early part of January 1984.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUA ASKED TO HELP PREVENT BORDER ATTACK

PA071953 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has asked the Nicaraguan Government to adopt measures to prevent a border attack. This was stated in a note that Costa Rican Acting Foreign Minister Armando Arauz Aguilar sent to his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, in response to a note from D'Escoto alerting the Costa Rican Government to the possibility of an attack by ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] against the Penas Blancas border post.

The Nicaraguan Government informed the Costa Rican Government yesterday that counter-revolutionaries linked to ARDE are planning to attack a Costa Rican Rural Guard border post in Penas Blancas.

The Nicaraguan Government note indicated that the counterrevolutionaries would carry out the attack camouflaging it as an act of the Sandinist People's Army and the Sandinist People's Militias. The note also reported that more than 150 men would participate in the attack. These men would be led by a person who speaks Spanish with a heavy foreign accent.

In the communique sent to his Nicaraguan colleague, Armando Arauz stated that the Costa Rican Government, as it has reiterated on many occasions, has adopted every possible measure to exercise total and effective control along the border with Nicaragua.

In view of the seriousness of the report we have received, the Costa Rican Government hopes that the Government of Nicaragua will immediately adopt the necessary measures to prevent armed groups from carrying out acts of war against Costa Rica, the Costa Rican acting foreign minister stated in the note to D'Escoto.

MONGE HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE ON TRIP TO U.S.

PA071610 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[News conference held by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge at the Presidential Palace in San Jose -- live]

[Excerpts] [Monge] Good evening, Messrs reporters, compatriots, and friends. I am appearing before the reporters present here, via television and radio, [words indistinct] in your homes, to tell you about the results of the working tour of the United States that (?I just completed) and to announce the goals we have set for the coming months (?in an effort to change Costa Rica from a consuming to a producing country, from an importing country to an exporting country. [Words indistinct] all citizens that the political-ideological alliance that strongly unites Costa Rica and the United States has been renewed and strengthened as a result of this mission, in which representatives of the government, the democratic opposition, and the productive sectors participated.

I told investors in Minnesota that the Costa Rican people appreciate those who help them in bad times. As president of Costa Rica, I reiterated that it has been my decision to further strengthen the friendly relations between my country and the United States.

Costa Rica is one of the first Central American nations to receive the benefits of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. This implies the opening of the largest market in the world to the Costa Rican economy. Although this measure presents the possible disadvantage of having our economy guided by the consumption patterns of the great U.S. market, making it more susceptible to its variations, it also implies undeniable advantages. There are many short-term advantages. The old dream, nurtured by great Latin American thinkers and statesmen, has come true.

To take advantage of the future possibilities for our country as a result of the CBI, legal provisions will be clearly established early in 1984 to stimulate national investments and attract foreign investments in order to increase production for export to (?states outside) Central America.

The commitment to production must be directed in three important directions. The market for flowers and tropical fruit is opened with a great potential for Costa Rica's production and export. Taking into consideration the experience gathered with the small independent coffee producers who work together in cooperatives of production and large-scale export, coffee production can represent a great step in the democratization of the economy through the cooperative movement. Just as is the case with coffee, which is cultivated on small farms, a family can produce flowers and tropical plants on small plots. The third direction for exports must be agriculture. The Costa Ricans' ability to produce food has been praised worldwide, particularly the production of coffee, bananas, and sugarcane.

Costa Rica needs more production and more exports. United, we have been able to preserve social peace and attain economic stability.

[Question] [Name indistinct] of XINHUA news agency. Mr President, what new attitudes did you observe in the U.S. officials, especially in Richard Stone, with regard to the Central American crisis?

[Monge] Mr Stone visited me in Miami to discuss once again the problems of Central America. Since it is already known to the public, I can now disclose that he told me about his mission to propose to Nicaraguan dissident groups the possibility of a dialogue aimed at finding a political and peaceful solution to the conflict in Nicaragua.

[Unidentified reporter] Certain European newspapers, particularly some in Spain, have published interviews in which you expressed concern about the imminent danger of a war in Central America. Could you expand on this? Wouldn't this create problems for the investments planned for the country next year?

[Monge] It is well known that we have experienced periods of change and different stages in the political panorama of Central America [words indistinct] of the various political factors was the imminent nature of a war between Honduras and Nicaragua. [passage indistinct] In the past few weeks, the Nicaraguan Government has been involved in what has been described as an emotional escalation to [words indistinct] U.S. attack on Nicaragua directly or by using other forces. Therefore, any news which may reach Europe about the dangers of war in Central America affect us negatively. [Words indistinct] Costa Rica has been successful in remaining removed from the social and political upheaval and the wars that are unfortunately going on in other Central American countries.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, a U.S. senator who visited our country in the past few hours said that U.S. senators would support and aid counterrevolutionary groups of Nicaragua. Doesn't this contradict what you discussed with Mr Stone in regard to the Contadora Group points and the need to achieve peace in Central America so that we can obtain all the benefits we expect for our country?

[Monge] Well, we have a position, but this does not mean that it is supported by all groups with power in the United States. There are sectors in the United States that favor supporting the dissident groups. There are sectors that believe Stone should carry a message promoting dialogue between the Managua government and the dissident groups. There also are sectors that advocate U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua and Central America. The apparatus of power in the United States is very complex.

LA NACION DEFENDS U.S. TRAINING OF CIVIL GUARD

PA072039 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 14-A

[Editorial: "Defenselessness and Neutrality"]

[Text] Some sectors of the pro-Sandinist left are apparently using President Monge's proclamation of neutrality as a pretext for preventing our security forces from training and preparing to defend the country should an armed attack call for self-defense before aid could arrive, or should a possible insurrection by the extreme left require defense to guarantee our internal security. They want to see us as unarmed and absolutely defenseless neutrals, so that if an armed invasion were to take place, we could be slaughtered like sheep.

This is the reason for the commotion that some of these sectors made regarding the presence in Costa Rica of U.S. military advisers from the Panama Canal area, where the School of the Americas has been training small groups of our Civil Guard for many years.

The issue is so clear and makes such obvious sense that we do not understand the confusion shown by Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano when a newswoman submitted him to a quasi-legal interrogation after she was invited to watch a film on the military and exercises that an unspecified number of Civil Guardsmen were carrying out at the El Rodeo farm under the direction of two or three U.S. advisers.

Far from becoming defenseless after proclaiming perpetual neutrality, the country cannot and must not give up the defense of its sovereignty and institutions. We do not have nor will we have an army, but this does not mean we will divest ourselves of the tools that, if needed, could be converted into weapons.

Neutrality does not mean we must become a no-man's land. Switzerland is a neutral country, but it has one of the best organized and equipped armies in the world. The lack of an army has been pointed out as one of the defects of the Statute of Neutrality that some people initally wanted to establish.

The U.S. instructors will temporarily stay in the country -- for days or weeks -- to follow up the courses that our Civil Guardsmen took in Panama. The Civil Guardsmen will possibly receive greater emphasis on military defense, and not just police security operations, in view of the Central American situation and the proximity of a Marxist-Leninist regime that is armed to the teeth and clearly aggressive. Costa Rica does not wish to become involved in a generalized armed conflict in Central America. That is why it has proclaimed its neutrality. However, one cannot ignore the recent threat of the coordinator of the Managua Government junta, who said that if Nicaragua is invaded, it would extend the war to the entire isthmus.

Our limited and weak security forces need a minimum of military instruction and training and, since in our era war is an essentially technical and professional undertaking, the government and all Costa Ricans would be wrong if they were to place on our northern border a handful of Civil Guardsmen who do not even know how to correctly use the revolvers they carry.

ARAUZ PROTESTS NICARAGUAN ATTACK ON SHIP

PA070508 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] In a note sent by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Armando Arauz Aguilar to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto this afternoon, Costa Rica demanded pertinent, prompt, and satisfactory explanations of the machinegunning of a Costa Rican ship by Sandinist planes.

Arauz Aguilar asked the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry to punish those responsible for this attack and demanded retribution for damages caused by what he described as an incomprehensible action.

In the note to D'Escoto, Arauz Aguilar added that this attack by military aircraft has caused indignation and is deemed an unacceptable action by the Costa Rican Government. He noted that the attack was on a ship that was flying the Costa Rican flag and that was navigating in Costa Rican waters. The ship was machinegunned by two Sandinist Air Force [FAS] planes. The foreign minister stressed that the attack caused considerable damage to the ship, whose cargo included 120 containers with various merchandise, raw materials, machinery, and 10 cars.

In conclusion, Arauz Aguilar expressed his high esteem for D'Escoto.

MOVE TO REPLACE PVP LEADERSHIP REPORTED

PA071750 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 4-A

[Article by Victor Hugo Vargas]

[Excerpts] Top leaders of the Popular Vanguard Party (PVP) are trying to replace Manuel Mora Valverde as the party's secretary general, a post that he has occupied for the past 53 years. A source close to Mora confirmed the news and attributed this attempt by several influential PVP militants to their disapproval of the way in which the 74-year-old senior politican has been handling the party's affairs.

Our source added: "They accuse him of being lazy and complacent; therefore, they feel that he should make way for other capable people who aspire to move up." He also revealed that those who oppose Mora advocate a harder line, including the use of violence to achieve power.

As a prelude to the replacement, the previously nonexistent post of party president was created by making changes in the party statutes during the PVP's last extraordinary congress (the third of its kind in the party's history) on 12 and 13 November.

It is believed that the idea is to make Mora president and replace him as secretary general with a younger, more dynamic individual. Former Deputy Vargas Carbonell is said to be a possible choice to fill the position of secretary general.

For his part, Arnoldo Ferreto, head of the PVP parliamentary group who is presumably promoting the candidacy of Vargas Carbonell to fill the post that Mora has been occupying to date, stated that everything that has been said about differences within the party is nonsense promoted by the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS).

However, he provided details regarding amendments to the statutes, and said that the threat of a coup d'etat looms over Costa Rica. He said that if a coup materializes, the PVP would not hesitate to take up arms to defend itself.

Ferreto said: "The changes agreed upon are not aimed at decreasing Manuel's power; they are aimed at promoting new groups to leadership positions, rather than a downgrading anyone. The Central Committee's proposal, which he (Mora) helped to draft, gives the president the authority and privileges formerly ascribed to the secretary general."

Further on Leadership Moves

PA071750 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 14-A

["Good Morning" column by Bosco Valverde: "Dangerous Change"]

[Text] Apparently the position of the hotheads has triumphed within the Costa Rican communist party. During a supersecret party meeting, the decision was made to relegate Manuel Mora, Popular Vanguard Party [PVP] leader and founder, to a figurehead position where he will have no real authority.

The new leaders of Costa Rican communism deem it necessary to incite violence by calling for strikes and even armed struggle.

The new leaders are now making Mora play for his measured position, his repeated assertion that the country is not ready at this particular moment for an armed revolution, and the fact that he has been receptive to dialogue regarding the nation's social and economic problems.

Arnoldo Ferreto and Humberto Vargas Carbonell will apparently become the top leaders of the political party, which represents the small number of Costa Rican communists. They are the very ones who speak of the necessity of protecting our democracy every time mention is made of the danger of an invasion. They are also the ones who never cease in their efforts to lead Costa Rica into chaos whenever they have the chance.

The change is a dangerous threat to the country's democratic stability. If anything, we have recognized that Manuel Mora is, first of all, a Costa Rican, and then a communist. This is precisely what the "new-trend communists" are making Mora pay for.

For these any extremists, the interests of the fatherland come second, Their primary interests are centered around the instructions they receive from the Kremlin and the interests of the Soviet Union in these regions. For this reason, they put the homeland in second place.

It is people who hold these latter ideas who have supposedly taken over the PVP. As a result, a change of attitude is also necessary for most Costa Ricans who love the homeland toward those who aspire to provoke a revolution in our country.

EL SALVADOR

SECURITY MEASURES PLANNED FOR BUSH VISIT

PA072026 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 pp 3, 35

[Text] Military spokesman have announced that strict security measures will be adopted on the occasion of U.S. Vice President George Bush's visit. Special commissions are working on the welcoming ceremony, public events, meetings, and talks with high-ranking Salvadoran authorities.

Military and security forces will cover the Ilopango airport area, as well as the towns of Apopa, Mejicanos, San Marcos, Cuscatancingo, Ayutuxtepeque, and Tonacatepeque, and the neighborhoods of Los Santos, San Jose, Plan del Pino, and others. The military and security forces are working on setting up security in the capital and the areas that the U.S. vice president will visit.

They are currently investigating the alleged entrance of guerrilla groups in San Salvador on buses, trucks, pickups, taxis, and other modes of transportation.

It was reported yesterday that the military forces will maintain strict control to prevent any type of violent action by terrorist groups. The most important roads, the entrances to and exits from the capital and nearby towns, access roads, hills, and valleys will be patroled. There will also be vigilance in public buildings, at bridges, and in the central areas and suburbs of San Salvador, the spokesmen added.

COPREFA REPORTS VARIOUS CLASHES WITH REBELS

PA070347 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador on 6 December 1983]

[Text] COPREFA reports that 12 terrorists were killed over the weekend in northeastern San Miguel Department. Members of the 3d Infantry Brigade clashed with an extremist column on the plains of El Hacha, in the municipality of Ciudad Barrios. The 3d Infantry Brigade constantly combs the area around the villages of Carolina, San Luis de la Reina, and San Gerardo. Two Brigade members were wounded in the clash.

Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed yesterday afternoon in a clash with a military unit patrolling the area of Zacatecoluca. One soldier was wounded in the action, which took place near San Jose la Montana.

Members of the 3d Infantry Brigade also clashed with FMLN terrorists in Jucuapa, Usulutan Department, killing six and wounding four.

An Armed Forces Command Training Center detachment clashed with a group of terrorists in Agua Zarca, killing two. Other Armed Forces units clashed with a terrorist column near El Brujo Hill, San Lorenzo municipality, San Vicente Department. The Armed Forces seized one M-16 rifle.

Finally, 4th Infantry Brigade units ambushed a column of extremists in San Antonio Matayate, Toda Concepcion municipality, Chalatenango Department.

HAVANA REPORTS U.S. HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN

FL071420 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] In El Salvador, guerrillas forces have shot down a U.S. helicopter that was flying over guerrilla positions. Fighting is being reported between the patriots and government troops in several parts of that Central American country.

Further on Airspace Violation

PA070446 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] A U.S. Army helicopter, coming from Honduras, violated Salvadoran airspace, by flying over areas controlled by the guerrillas in Morazan Department. The charge was made by Radio Venceremos, the official voice of the FMLN, which indicated that the helicopter was carrying out a reconnaissance mission over Torola and the hills surrounding that town. The station added that the purpose of these flights is to gather information for a plan intended to eliminate the FMLN's prisoners who are being held in Torola.

GUATEMALA

ARMY HIGH COMMAND REDUCED TO THREE MEMBERS

PA080122 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0043 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] According to Chapter 2, Article 11 of the new law on Army structure, which has been published in the OFFICIAL GAZATTE, effective today the Guatemalan Army's High Command will consist of three members: the chief of state and general commander of the Army, the national defense minister, and the chief of staff of the National Defense.

Under the previous law, commanders of various military posts were also members of the High Command. The new law is effective today.

SUBVERSIVES ATTACK POWER SUBSTATION IN SAN MARCOS

PA031155 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Dec 83

[Text] A group of armed men attempted to take over the facilities of the INDE [National Electricity Institute] substation in the agrarian community of El Porvenir, in San Pablo, San Marcos Department.

A 25-year-old soldier named Alfonso Sitalan Reyes, who was guarding the substation, was machinegunned. The subversives were repelled by police agents, who killed two of the attackers.

Several other subversives were wounded and rescued by the others, who took them away, throwing [words indistinct].

The reports added that the INDE installations suffered no damage, and that there were no power interruptions.

METEOROLOGY CENTER TARGET OF BOMB ATTACK

PA0311156 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] El Peten -- Unidentified individuals dynamited one of the ground stations of the National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology, and Hydrology, INSIVUMEH, located in the outskirts of La Libertad municipality, El Peten Department.

Thus far, there have been no official reports on the incident, but it has been learned that the attack took place early this week in that remote area of the country.

According to information gathered by our correspondent in Santa Elena, El Peten, unidentified individuals dynamited the recently installed ground station. Apparently an explosive device made of dynamite was placed in the installations of the ground station. When it exploded, everything was damaged, our correspondent added.

Based on consultations with police authorities in San Benito, El Peten, the damage to the equipment amounted to approximately 70,000 quetzales. This ground station was used in investigations related to weather forecasts, rainfall, water velocity, and control of still waters.

Thus far, there has been no official report on the incident. It is expected that the government will issue a notice on the subject soon.

INSIVUMEH equipment has been the target of terrorist actions in the past, especially in the eastern part of the country, but no victims have yet resulted from the attacks. Nevertheless, this is the first time that terrorists have destroyed such expensive equipment, leaving part of the weather forecasting system inoperative.

HAVANA NOTES SUCCESSFUL ORPA GUERRILLA ATTACK

FL060245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2105 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The People in Arms Organization, ORPA, member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity organization, has issued a communique on recent guerrilla activities. The ORPA states that for 2 and 1/2 hours guerrilla units surrounded the Army detachment stationed at Los Andes powerhouse, located on El Porvenir farm, San Pablo municipality, San Marcos Department. The attack was carried out with rifle fire and light artillery and started with the capture of the [perimeter] defensive forces of the detachment in a pitched battle. ORPA forces inflicted 15 casualties on the enemy and reported one seriously wounded guerrilla member.

BRIEFS

GUATEMALA CITY ARCHBISHOP -- Guatemala City, 3 Dec (AFP) -- The Pope has appointed Monsignor Prospero Penados del Barrio as the new metropolitan archbishop for Guatemala City, filling the vacancy created by the death of Cardinal Mario Casariego in June. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2019 GMT 3 Dec 83 PA]

HONDURAS

NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING CBI REQUIREMENTS REPORTED

PA071842 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Honduras completed last-minute negotiations yesterday for inclusion in the second group of countries that will benefit from the Caribbean Basin Initiative. We may have to pay dearly for this assistance, because the North Americans are demanding a number of indemnity payments, including one to the owner of (Morada) Island and one to the owner of the land expropriated in Puerto Castilla, on which the CREMS [Regional Military Training and Security Center] is currently operating. Honduras also pledged to resolve the matter of theft of some U.S. television programs.

Last night the government concluded a series of negotiations with high-ranking U.S. State Department officials. The talks were aimed at reaching a final settlement and including Honduras in the second group of CBI beneficiary countries.

After 2 days of protracted, closed-door meetings, the government was moderately successful in attaining agreement on a number of requirements in order to be given priority status under the plan. These agreements will become effective in January. Yesterday it was reported that some of the requirements to qualify for priority status under the plan are the payment of indemnity to several North American citizens, a settlement with regard to the theft of television programs, and an end to the expropriation of properties of U.S. citizens, among other conditions. Officials interviewed at the end of the meeting declined to comment on the amount of the aid. Instead, they said it would be preferable to approach this matter from the standpoint of trade because, under the plan, the U.S. market would be open to Honduran products on a tax-free basis for 12 years.

NICARAGUA

WHEELOCK EXPLAINS NEW DECREE TO PRIVATE GROWERS

PA071836 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, yesterday said that the decree recently announced by the Government which offers guarantees to small farmers who joined the counterrevolution under pressure or because they were deceived does not affect rental contracts. He made the statement at a meeting with private cotton growers in western Nicaragua.

The private growers expressed some concerns, and reaffirmed their willingness to continue their activities. Wheelock said:

[Begin recording] All the land confiscations and expropriations carried out in compliance with Decree 329 and 338, as well as under the Land Reform Law, are irreversible. That should remain very clear. The recently announced decree attempts to regulate the situation of those growers who, because they were confused or intimidated by the counterrevolutionary bands, have abandoned their small land holdings. In the first place, the government recognizes the grower's willingness to return according to the mechanisms contained in the decree, and in the second place, it guarantees him free utilization of his property. In the event that the property has been temporarily occupied, it will be returned to him or he will receive compensation.

The decree does not protect any Somozist, traitor, exile, lazy landowner, or landowner who does not work his land and whose land has been expropriated.

However, there is concern among some growers -- and you have expressed this -- regarding the fact that all private growers who are present here, 50 percent of whom lease their lands, feel threatened by the possibility that owners of idle land, that is, those who speculate with their land, will take their land from them. We have said before that all those who lease land will preserve the right to lease the land in [words indistinct]. [end recording]

OPPOSITION SAYS SANDINISTS LACK 'CREDIBILITY'

PA060431 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2301 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Referring to the announcement of general elections in 1985, two Nicaraguan opposition parties, the Democratic Coordinating Board and the Conservative Party, today agreed that the Sandinist government lacks "credibility."

In remarks made separately for ACAN-EFE, Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, president of the Democratic Coordinating Board, and Miriam Arguello, vice president of the Conservative Party, said that "there is a lack of credibility in the Sandinist Government's actions," and called for a dialogue among all Nicaraguans, with the "endorsement of the Contadora Group," to come to an agreement on democratization.

Rivas Gasteazoro's statement to ACAN-EFE was made on his own behalf, inasmuch as the Coordinating Board has not yet examined the full impact of the decrees that were announced by the Sandinist junta yesterday on the electoral process and on a pardon for all rebels who are not leaders, so that they can participate in the elections.

The opposition leader said: "Any measure toward detente is good, but the real way to solve the country's problems is to hold a meeting in which all Nicaraguans may participate, with the presence and endorsement of the Contadora Group."

The government's original plan, based on a mixed economy, political pluralism, and the convocation of elections, brought the Nicaraguans together in 1979 to "overthrow the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, but the Sandinists have not kept their promises," Rivas Gasteazoro told ACAN-EFE in this capital.

According to Rivas Gasteazoro, the Sandinists promised the opposition bloc that they would announce a specific date yesterday and would also specify what kind of elections will be held in 1985. These details were not disclosed, however.

"This matter seems to be taking a long time, because the Sandinists are now saying that they will not announce the date of the elections until 21 February," he said.

Arguello remarked that the necessary political conditions to "go around talking about an electoral process" do not exist in Nicaragua, since there is no freedom of the press and since the state of emergency, which does not allow dissident parties to hold activities or carry out campaigns, is still in effect.

"The Sandinists have done nothing specific to show that they have kept the promises they made to the Nicaraguan people. They've twisted the path of the revolution," Arguello stressed.

As for the offer to permit rebels to participate in the elections, Arguello said that "the government might take measures against these people in the future. One must expect anything from the current leaders." The two leaders said that a dialogue among all Nicaraguans, held under the auspices of the Contadora Group, is necessary.

The Coordinating Board consists of three parties: the Social Christian Party, the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, and the Social Democratic Party.

MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP ON JUNTA DECREES

PA071925 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement [MAP] has released a document in which it outlines its views on the Government Junta's latest announcements in regard to the institutionalization of the revolutionary process and the decree on the return of exiles.

In its document, the MAP proposes the creation of a people's assembly composed of trade union, peasant, and popular representatives that would become a vehicle for worker participation. Nobody is more qualified than the workers to defend their own process of popular emancipation, says the MAP.

Regarding the decree on exiles, the MAP asserts that all emigrees who have no record of having committed crimes against the people before or after 19 July [1979] and who do not return to engage in internal counterrevolutionary activities must be protected by the people, and their return to the country's social mainstream must be guaranteed.

The document adds that the MAP supports the institutionalization process, but that it must give a privileged status to the masses' economic and political rights.

The 4-page document was signed by the MAP and the Workers Front, FO.

PROCLAMATION OF PCDN 'LEGITIMIST' MOVEMENT

PA071337 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A serious rift has occurred in the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN] as a result of the unexpected political turn given to the party by its current President Miriam Arguello, following her recent meeting with Fernando Aguero Rocha [leader of the former Nicaraguan Conservative Party] in San Jose.

Divisionism in the party -- or, rather, what was left of the party in Nicaragua -- was accented when a so-called national assembly elected a board of directors comprised entirely, with only two exceptions, of Aguero followers. Aguero apparently indicated to Arguello in San Jose who should be elected and who should be purged from the PCDN, which, before the triumph of the Sandinist revolution in 1979, bore the pompous name of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party.

A large number of conservatives rejected this election and decided to form a board of directors from among the dissidents, to be headed by Dr Clemente Guido, to organize a temporary legitimist movement of the PCDN, for the purpose of restoring the authentic National Executive Council [CEN], which was replaced by a clearly spurious national board of directors.

We will now present the text of the proclamation signed by various well-known politicians, including Dr Clemente Guido, (Roberto Arana Arce Juck), Manuel Gutierrez Hurtado, Dr Enrique Sotelo Borge, Dr Luis Andara Ubeda, Felix Pedro Espinosa, and many others, who have decided to leave the group led by Miriam Arguello.

Proclamation: In view of the fact there is a rift in the PCDN's leadership that has turned the party into a two-pronged organization as a result of the mistaken moves by some authorities and a group of their unconditional followers, and considering that this condition is clear to all democratic conservatives in the country and to the nation's other political parties, we deem it our duty to make clear before national public opinion, and in particular our fellow party members, our political stance regarding the crisis that should be overcome through internal dialogue for the benefit of our party.

To this effect, we solemnly declare: We will obey the authorities of our party elected by the national unification convention held in March 1979. Therefore, we do not recognize as legitimate the so-called national electoral committee; the so-called national board of directors, which is illegal; and the so-called reform of the statutes of the PCDN, all of which were the result of a spurious PCDN national convention that met on 19 November 1983 in Costa Rica. This represents complete contempt for the party's statutes.

The action taken was illegal because no more than a third of all of the PCDN's departmental conventions had been reorganized, and because in these conventions the rules prescribed by the CEN have not been complied with through the national organization's secretariat. Under these circumstances, we have become a temporary legitimist movement of the PCDN in order to return our rank and file to law and order and to restore the CEN's legitimacy. This council has been replaced by an illegal national board of directors that is clearly spurious for the reasons already mentioned.

We are not motivated by divisionist purposes. On the contrary, we have been concerned over the fact that the conservative unity, which was successfully maintained in our internal administration from 1979 to 1982, is threatened by stances or methods that do not adhere to orderly and just principles. These principles were successfully practiced and maintained by the PCDN during that same period.

We are striving for the legitimacy of the party's highest leaders and for the party's unity. We are striving for a sincere, open struggle in an active citizenship to guide our country through democracy with social justice, and in order to solve our internal problems. We are willing to hold a dialogue with those who have violated our party's internal authenticity. We enjoy broad national support.

Managua, November 1983

Temporary Legitimist Movement of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua

[Signed] Manuel Gutierrez Hurtado, secretary; Clemente Guido, president; (Roberto Arana Arce Juck), treasurer

JUNTA MAKES CHURCH CELEBRATION OFFICIAL HOLIDAY

PA072015 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua through the Labor Ministry; no date given]

[Text] Through the Labor Ministry, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction [JGRN] informs employers and workers throughout the country:

In recognition of the Nicaraguan people's traditions and in order to take part in the celebration of the Virgin Mary's Festivities, the JGRN has declared this day, Wednesday, 7 December, a half holiday, starting at 1400, and has further declared 8 December a day off charged to annual leave.

Companies that because of the nature of their activities cannot interrupt operations are exempted from complying with this order. Therefore, starting at 1400 today, 7 December, all Nicaragua will prepare to shout: "What is the cause of so much joy? The Virgin Mary!"

GOVERNMENT WELCOMES NUNS BANNED FROM HONDURAS

PA071650 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 6 December 1983]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry informs the Nicaraguan people that it has learned today that several Nicaraguan Christian groups, including CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development], the Antonio Valdivieso Center, (CEPA) [expansion unknown], and (CEPRES) [expansion unknown] have invited a group of U.S. nuns who oppose U.S. intervention in Central America to visit Nicaragua. The women, who were to stage a peace vigil in Honduras, were denied entrance to that country by Honduran officials.

In view of this, the Government of National Reconstruction informs the group of U.S. sisters, with solidarity, that the doors of Nicaragua will remain open to them at all times, as well as to any U.S. citizen who wishes to visit Nicaragua.

Managua, 6 December 1983

Havana Notes Invitation

FL071340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua has invited 200 U.S. nuns to visit Nicaragua. They were denied entrance to Honduras for attempting to organize a vigil for peace.

The announcement was made by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a junta member, as he opened an international conference of nongovernmental organizations.

Ramirez Mercado said: We want to tell those U.S. sisters, who are interested in peace, that in Nicaragua they can carry out the vigil that they were not able to organize in front of the U.S. military base at (Palmerola) in Honduras.

The U.S. nuns attempted to hold a protest in Honduras against the presence of 5,000 U.S. soldiers in the joint U.S.-Honduran maneuvers, provoking Nicaraguan and the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

The U.S. State Department refused to condemn the decision by the Honduran Government, which prevented the entry into its territory of 200 U.S. nuns.

VOICE OF SANDINO BROADCASTS ARDE WAR REPORTS

15 Army Deaths Claimed

PA070441 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 109 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command "in the mountains of Nicaragua," on 6 December 1983]

[Text] We report to the people of Nicaragua and the world's democratic peoples that at 1015 on 1 November, [as heard] the Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column from the TPH-1 zone ambushed one of Managua's totalitarian army patrols in a place know as Niagara, in the area of Zelaya Sur. In the fight, which lasted 16 minutes, we caused the enemy 15 dead and many wounded. Our forces suffered no casualties. Our combatants remain in the positions they have taken and continue to struggle against the enemy with genuine nationalist courage and spirit. The enemy is intent on giving our homeland to Moscow, but the patriotic ideals and heritage bequeathed by Augusto Cesar Sandino, the general of free men, are still being enforced with national dignity and honor. Death to the interfering Cuban foreigner! Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Boats Attacked in Zelaya

PA072035 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 110 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command in "the Nicaraguan mountains," on 6 December 1983]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the world's free peoples: At 1000 on 2 December, the Gaspar Garcia Laviana column attacked two boats carrying 30 members of the Managua totalitarian regime, 2 km from the post of Atlanta, in southern Zelaya. They were reinforcements for the zone of (Mississippi). The ambush lasted 12 minutes. All the occupants of one of the boats were killed. We suffered no casualties. This offensive is part of many others which the ARDE Armed Forces are carrying out in December. The Sandinist morale of our fighters is very high, and every day our forces grow with peasants who struggle to give our people the principles of peace, justice, and freedom.

Death to the Cuban and foreign interventionists! Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

[Dated] Mountains of Nicaragua, 6 December 1983

[Signed] ARDE Armed Forces General Command

San Juan del Norte Bay Actions

PA072040 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[War bulletin No 111 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command in "the Nicaraguan mountains," on 6 December 1983]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the world's free peoples:

At 0500 on 5 December, a squad of the Juan Pablo Umanzor column, commanded by Companero (Aleon) from the (TPH-2) zone, staged a harassment action in San Juan del Norte Bay. The action lasted 30 minutes. Because the attack by our ARDE forces was quick, daring, and accurate, we were unable to determine the number of enemy casualties, but it is believed that they were heavy. Once it fulfilled its military objectives, our squad withdrew in an orderly fashion to positions they hold in our fatherland's mountains. Several companeros who risked their lives for our people's freedom and democracy stood out in this action. Death to the Cuban and foreign interventionists! Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

[Dated] Mountains of Nicaragua, 6 December 1983

[Signed] ARDE Armed Forces General Command

FDN LEADERS ANNOUNCE PLANNED MILITARY ACTIONS

PA071928 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, ACAN -- Leaders of the anti-Sandinist organization FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] have announced in Tegucigalpa that in a few days they will carry out concerted military actions to create an independent state in Nicaraguan territory. The FDN, which opposes the Sandinist regime, has rejected the amnesty that the Managua government offered last week to those Nicaraguans who fled the country after the revolution's triumph in July 1979. FDN Commander in Chief Adolfo Calero Portocarrero has stated: Three thousand men of our forces permanently control some 8,000 square kilometers in Nueva Segovia Department, in northwestern Nicaragua. He added: We maintain our purpose of declaring that area a free country and then asking for international recognition by democratic countries.

The FDN leaders termed capricious the 1985 electoral process announced by the nine Sandinist commanders, because it only seeks to confirm the Sandinist presence, without risking the public power that they exercise illegally. Calero added: The Sandinists do not even suggest the repatriation of the thousands of internationalists parsites who are illegally taking work and food away from Nicaragua.

Alfonso Callejas, member of the FDN directorate, said: The differences between the FDN and ARDE [Revolutionary Democratic Alliance] can be overcome without too much difficulty, because we are fighting a common enemy, and both organizations have the same objective, that is, to democratize Nicaragua.

RADIO 15 SEPTEMBER REPORTS 100 EPS CASUALTIES

PA070231 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] The "Nicarao" Task Force led by Commander "Mack" caused more than 100 deaths to the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) in operations in La Magdelena, Ciudad Antigua jurisdiction, Nueva Segovia Department. The fighting began at 0700 on Saturday and ended that evening. This was reported by the rebel station "15 September," which said that a preliminary check had confirmed that more than 100 dead were inflicted, while the number of wounded could not be determined. However, a member of the State Security Office who was captured reported that the Sandinist casualties were much higher and included commanders Solyn and Ronald Martinez Lopez, members of the special Anti-Insurgency Struggle Brigade. Some 15 AK-47 rifles, 38 clips, 2 ponchos, 11 knives, 3,000 AK rounds, 1 knapsack, and 41 handgrenades were captured. The freedom commandoes sustained six casualties, including Commander Ocran. Fighting has taken place in other sectors and the Democratic Force continues to achieve victories, the station further reported.

PEREZ, PDRY'S AL-QADIR DISCUSS ECONOMY, EDUCATION

FL080209 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] At the main offices of the Central Committee, Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo, today met with 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Yemen Socialist Party.

During the talks, which were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, Perez Herrero referred to the ideological efforts being made by Cuba to raise the level of efficiency in the main branches of the economy. In addition, he noted the progress being made by the Yemeni students attending educational centers on the Isle of Youth.

The Yemeni leader stated that the education of those youths will decisively contribute to the fraternal union between our two peoples.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SENEGAL

FL080109 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Cuba's Communist Party and the Party for the Independence and Work of Senegal signed a cooperation agreement this morning at the main offices of the party Central Committee here in Havana. The agreement was signed by Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the party Secretariat, and (Seigu Sisoppo), secretary general of the Senegalese party.

MALMIERCA ENDS VISIT TO PRAGUE, SUPPORTS USSR

FL080155 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who has concluded an official visit to Czechoslovakia, stated at a press conference that Cuba believes that the deployment of missiles is a grave and negative step as well as a serious threat to peace and international security.

Malmierca voiced support for the measures announced by the USSR and other socialist countries in response to the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe. He added that Cuba fully supports the statements made by Yuriy Andropov and the USSR's attitude in the face of new threats to world peace.

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

PARTY NEWSPAPER REAPPEARS -- After an absence of several years, THE TORCH, the official voice of the free national movement [FNM], resumed publication on Thursday. In its first issue, THE TORCH said it wanted to dispel the misconception that THE NATIONAL EXPRESS was the party's official newspaper. THE EXPRESS was, and to the best of our knowledge is still owned by Mr. William Gibson, who is also its publisher and editor," THE TORCH said. THE TORCH is wholly owned by the FNM, with offices in the party's Mackey St. headquarters. Its goal is to promote the policies and philosophy of the party. The editor of the newspaper is Lionel Dorset, a former deputy news director at ZNS [ZNS Radio and Television 13]. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 25 Nov 83 p 1 FL]

BARBADOS

CANADA TO UNDERWRITE PRODUCTION CAPACITY STUDY

FLO72115 Bridgetown CANA in English 2022 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 7 (CANA) -- A study of plant capacity in the manufacturing sector is to be undertaken on behalf of the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA) through assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Counsellor for development in the Canadian High Commission here, John Wood, today presented a cheque for 60,000 dollars (1 Bbos dollar 50 cents U.S.) to BMA President Henry Vieira to finance the study, which is expected to be completed in three months. It will be carried out by a local firm, Antilles Investment and Management Consultants, whose president, Dr Carl Clarke, said the possibility of introducing two- or three-shift systems in this sector will also be examined.

Vieira said the study arose out of a recognition that there was a high level of under utilized plant capacity in the Barbados manufacturing sector and a need to be able to take full advantage of this capacity both from a cost and foreign exchange earning viewpoint.

Canadian support, Wood said, was based on two principles in its cooperation with Barbados. The first, he said, was recognition of and support for the island's industrial development progamme, which was one of Canada's major objectives in its development programme in the region, and the other was to strengthen broad economic relations between the two countries.

DOMINICA

ANTIGUA-BARBUDA'S HENRY TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

FLO72245 Bridgetown CANA in English 1838 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec 7 (CANA) -- Antigua and Barbuda's first High Commissioner to Dominica Oscar Henry will tomorrow present his credentials to Acting President Clarence Seignoret. Henry, who is non-resident, arrives here today and will also pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Eugenia Charles during his four-day official visit.

GRENADA

FORMER LEGAL ADVISER LEAVES FOR ANTIGUA

FL072145 Bridgetown CANA in English 2001 GMT 7 Dec 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 7 (CANA) -- British constitutional legal expert Anthony Rushford walked out of his job as legal advisor to the new Grenada Government in a huff after being told by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to scale down his frequent unauthorised press conferences, well placed diplomatic sources said today. Sir Paul met with Rushford last weekend and voiced his displeasure over press briefings the Briton was giving to regional and international journalists without first seeking the permission of the Grenadian authorities, the sources said.

An angry Rushford, who was also an ex-officio member of the caretaker government and the island's new attorney general, approached the British High Commission office here on Monday morning and announced he wanted to leave the country for Antigua. Diplomatic sources said Rushford told the British officials he wanted a hotel room booked in Antigua for himself and his wife. Asked by the High Commission officials when he was coming back to Grenada, Rushford -- whose services were made available to the government by the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat -- replied that he was not too sure. He said he had not informed Sir Paul about his decision to leave Grenada.

Rushford told newsmen here Monday he had resigned his job because of differences with Sir Paul. But a spokesperson for the Grenada head of state later said no letter of resignation had been received from the British lawyer.

In his comments to the press, Rushford accused the governor-general of doing"very little to bring about the restoration of constitutional civil government" following the recent strife here.

Grenada is slowly returning to normal after an Army coup here October 19 that saw the execution of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several of his colleagues and the subsequent invasion of the island by American-led forces to put down the military junta.

Rushford was in St Vincent Monday but declined to give details of the differences that led to his hurried departure from Grenada after being in the job for just under a month. He said then he would probably spend a few days in St Vincent before moving on, but did not say when he would return to Britain. The Briton, who helped to draft Grenada's 1973 Constitution as well as those of the independent-member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), was last month contracted by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Corporation (CFTC) to advise Sir Paul Scoon on constitutional matters in Grenada following the October 25 intervention.

DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTING U.S. ROLE CANCELLED

FL072317 Bridgetown CANA in English 1832 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] St George's, Grenada, Dec 7 (CANA) -- Today's planned public demonstration in support of October's U.S.-led invasion and the island's interim government was called off because officials feared future counter-demonstrations, a Caribbean military official said. Major John Prescod said the organisers, a group of businessmen, had agreed to cancel the demonstration through the capital, St George's, on the advice of the Caribbean peacekeeping force.

Prescod said the force and Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon had previously agreed to the public show of support for the intervention of the U.S. and Caribbean forces. But there was a change of decision for security reasons. "We feel at this time that demonstrations should not be encouraged because the air is still tense and could in fact set a precedent for gatherings of large demonstrations which would not be favourable to us in all instances. What I'm saying is that tomorrow it may be the PRA (Peoples Revolutionary Army), the New Jewel Movement (NJM), or some hostile group wanting to demonstrate against us, and in a climate of democracy how can you allow one someday and not allow another on a different day," he said.

JAMAICA

SEAGA CONGRATULATES VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

FL071910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1702 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 7 (CANA) -- Jamaica's prime minister, Edward Seaga, has sent a congratulatory message to Venezuela's president-elect, Dr Jaime Lusinchi, expressing a wish for continued good relations between the two countries. Lusinchi, of the social democratic [as received], Democratic Action Party convincingly beat Rafael Caldera of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, COPEI, in Sunday's presidential election. Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) has relations with COPEI.

"You take office at a time when all the countries of our region are faced with serious economic difficulties and when the political situation in Central America will be specially demanding of your country's attention as a member of the Contadora Group," Seaga said in his message. "I am sure that you will respond to the challenge of leadership in these difficult times with strength and determination, in the interest of your people and the region as a whole." Seaga said that he was looking forward to "continued close relations between our two countries."

ECUADOR

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR AMAZON TREATY MEETING

PA071632 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Valencia yesterday left for Cali to attend the second foreign ministers meeting on the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Before boarding the plane, he said that at this meeting Ecuador will again present a proposal containing several plans intended to stimulate the fields of agroindustry, agriculture, forestry, and environmental protection. This document was previously presented at a meeting of the Amazon Treaty Council held in Lima.

PARAGUAY

CONGRESS PASSES BUDGET LAW FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984

PY072325 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 10

[Excerpts] The executive branch yesterday passed Law No 1,027 approving the nation's general budget for fiscal year 1984. The central government deficit is 16,473,000,000 guaranies while the budget's total deficit is 4,012,000,000 guaranies.

Despite the approach focusing on austerity and budgetary frugality, Congress made some changes in the draft law, increasing the expenditures of the central government and the autonomous agencies. The draft law had placed the central government's expenditure figure at 100,914,900,000 guaranies. Congress changed it to 105,987,800,000 guaranies. As for the autonomous agencies, the draft law figure was 203,713,000,000 guaranies and Congress changed it to 204,167,900,000 guaranies. Thus, the overall expenditure figure was changed from 303,628,000,000 guaranies [as published] to 310,155,800,000 guaranies.

As for the Central Government's income, Congress changed the draft law's orginial 84,557,100,000 guarani-amount to 89,514,200,000 guaranies. The autonomous agencies' income figures were not changed.

The higher income approved by Congress does not result from higher rents connected as taxes, but exclusively from the contracting of foreign loans. Initially placed at 11,276,600,000 guaranies in the draft law, Congress changed the amount allocated to this item to 16,193,140,000 guaranies; this accounts for a 4,916,540,000-guarani difference.

Law No 1,027 also changed the text of Article 16, which now reads: "The executive branch is hereby authorized to contract loans and/or issue National Treasury bonds to be negotiated with the Central Bank to obtain the resources for the credits provided for in the Central Government budget. This procedure must follow the existing regulations on the matter."

Thus, the new law has enforced regulations of a broader scope, allowing the executive branch to operate with practically no restrictions.

URUGUAY

COLORADO DELEGATION TO ALFONSIN INAUGURATION

PY071731 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Colorado Party delegation to Alfonsin's inauguration will hold two important meetings. Although the time and place are still undetermined, it is known that the Colorado leaders are to meet with the Spanish and Italian prime ministers, Felipe Gonzalez and Bettino Craxi, respectively. This information was relayed to Radio El Espectador Network by the secretary general of the Montevideo Department Colorado Party convention.

VENEZUELA

CSE REPORTS LUSINCHI'S DEFINITIVE VICTORY

PA071914 Paris AFP in Spanish 1831 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 7 Dec (AFP) -- Social Democrat Jaime Lusinchi won last Sunday's presidential elections in Venezuela with 56.81 percent of the valid votes, according to the definitive official returns reported today by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]. Lusinchi's Democratic Action (AD) Party obtained one of every two parliamentary votes.

The candidates and parties with the majority of votes were:

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Jaime Lusinchi (Social Democrat)	3,733,220	56.81
Rafael Caldera (Christian Democrat) [as received]	2,271,269	34.58
Teodoro Petkoff (Leftist)	274,197	4.17
Jose Vicente Rangel (Leftist)	219,368	3.34
Jorge Olavarria (Liberal Party) [as received]	31,099	0.49
Party		
AD (Social Democrat)	3,246,382	49.97
COPEI (Christian Democrat) [as received]	1,860,137	28.73
MAS (Marxist-Petkoff)	373,374	5.75
OPINA (Olavarria)	128,122	1.97
MEP (Worker-Rangel)	127,837	1.97

A percentage of 86.67 voters went to the polls.